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18 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: James Lowenstein's Comments on Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings on Vietnam

1. This afternoon in the course of a phone conversation on another matter I asked James Lowenstein, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, how the Vietnam hearings had gone yesterday and today.

2. Regarding yesterday's hearings he said they were "terrible" primarily because the Senators were "off the point." I asked him how Bill Colby had come through and he said that people like Colby were the best people in Vietnam and Colby had handled himself very well except he had been a little evasive in responding to questions about the [ ] case. Lowenstein went on to say that apparently there are "serious internal Agency problems" regarding the [ ] case and he is not sure the Director fully appreciates all the facts and fully realizes how much is "known on the outside." Lowenstein said there are "at least twelve people who know every detail," and there were factions involved and the case was very complicated, but he indicated that because a number of people knew the details it wouldn't be too difficult to get to the bottom of it.

3. Regarding today's session, Lowenstein said things had "gone much better" and remarked that "[ ] was a powerful witness and had mowed them down."

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JOHN M. MAURY  
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